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Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report on the review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management, which will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/8th-Session/). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on how the global geospatial information management community can actively contribute to the effective coordination of geospatial activities within the United Nations system.

Summary of the report

At its seventh session, held in New York from 2 to 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 7/115, in which it welcomed the report of the Secretariat on the review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management and agreed that efforts should be made to consider a more structured and sustainable coordination approach for geospatial information management activities within the United Nations system. The Committee emphasized the need for the Secretariat to continue its consultations concerning the questionnaire that had been circulated in order to provide a systematic overview of the existing geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements of the United Nations system, to continue to seek clarification and expand on responses received, and to reach out to United Nations entities that had not yet responded, with a view to maintaining a list of points of contact within the United Nations system. As a starting point, the Committee agreed to establish a United Nations system network within its global

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architecture, which, once established, could then review and possibly implement further options at an appropriate time in the future, with the guidance and support of the Committee.

In the report, the Secretariat provides information on the continued efforts and progress made to seek clarification on United Nations activities in geospatial information management, including the maintenance of a list of points of contact. The Secretariat also presents the preparatory consultations undertaken with the various offices, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system for the establishment of the United Nations system network, including the preparation of draft terms of reference for consideration by the Committee of Experts.